

duty of Government no less than a parental obligation, and the law of March 1851, not only furnished ample provision for schools of every grade, but will be instrumental in enabling us to establish the principle that they are open to all—Free or Common Schools, in the fullest sense of the term. Instead of a soiled State and County tax of one mill and a half for their support, the act in question directed a State School tax and that its proceeds be distributed from the State Treasury in proportion to the enumeration of school age within the respective counties. Every township was constituted a district, and entrusted to a Board of Education consisting of a representative from each sub-district who are authorized to make, or after such sub-district, to assess taxes for the construction of school houses and the extension of school terms; and to exercise whatever general supervision of educational interests may be consistent with the duties enjoined upon the local directors in each sub-district. A fund of one-tenth of a mill yearly was appropriated "for the purpose of furnishing school libraries and apparatus to all the common schools of the State," and the supervision of the system was confided to a State Commissioner elected by the people.

In other respects, the present school law is a digest of previous legislation, and was intended to relieve the public mind from the confusion and uncertainty caused by frequent and inconsistent enactments.

A sufficient period has now passed for us to determine whether the people are generally satisfied with the present law, or in what respect it requires modification. There has been some complaint of the manner of determining the State School Fund. Those counties which include populous cities are assessed with greater amounts than the enumeration of youth entitles them to receive; and in one instance the amount received is only about one-half the sum contributed to the State fund. Still it is easy to see that if we consider the *ratio* as the object of public regard—as a word of the State for a certain degree of instruction—that the direct application of the public bounty to the youth of the country in proportion to the annual enumeration is neither logical nor consistent. It presents a fair subject, however, for the consideration of the General Assembly.

The organization of township Boards of Education, which is the expanse of their powers and duties, reduced the authority of local directors, was a centralizing measure, and has undoubtedly produced a greater degree of uniformity and efficiency; but it is a grave question whether the division of jurisdiction between those bodies has not led to disorganization and confusion, and whether the power of taxation vested in Boards of Education has not been injudiciously exercised.

It is highly important that the ethical act should accurately define the powers and duties of those officers, respectively; although it is quite possible that former uncertainty in this and other respects has been removed by the opinion and advice of the State Commissioners. The present system owes much to the mutual and various provisions of that office.

Boards of Education are required to furnish schools for seven months of the year, and they are authorized to direct assessments "for school purposes other than for the payment of teachers," under which head the item of school house construction is included. They may also direct assessments not exceeding two mills on the dollar for the support of central or high schools, when legally established, and "for the purpose of providing after the State funds have been exhausted the sums of the several sub-district or primary schools in the township." There does not seem to be any limitation of the power of taxation "for school purposes other than the payment of teachers."

The taxes assessed for local school purposes in 1854 amounted to \$1,265,424, and in 1855 to \$1,246,349, amounts almost equal to the State school tax of a mill, and a half of the grand duplicates. The largest portion of these assessments were inubtis for school house structure, and in prolonging the school beyond the period of seven months, and may be regarded as extraordinary expenditures. Why should not propositions to incur them be submitted to the consideration of the people of the township? As the services of members of Boards of Education are gratuitous, those officers are usually ardent friends of education, and there is danger that their zeal in its behalf, however honorable to them, individually, may sometimes fail to sustain it in the public opinion, a state of things certain to produce an injurious reaction and to impair the usefulness of our school system. It would be better to distribute a certain degree of educational progress over several years, and be more sensible of a cordial sentiment of public approval, than to precipitate the same, within a single year, and thereby alienate the sympathies of community.

A well regulated militia system is almost essential to the preservation of an efficient military spirit among the people. Standing armies in time of peace are viewed with great distrust in all Republican Governments, and it is upon an intelligent and well organized militia that we must rest our defense to the greatest extent, even in war.

In other Governments, the military force is organized for the support of tyranny, and the mass of people are neither trained nor allowed to possess arms. Here the military force is organized for the support of popular Government, and the right of the people to bear arms is an express guarantee of the Constitution. The protection of the liberties of the country and the maintenance of public order, are confided to the hands of the free and independent citizens of the State.

We receive annually a large quantity of arms from the General Government, and with suitable encouragement, there would be organized a line of informed volunteer companies that would inspire our young men with a laudable spirit of chivalry, and in the hour of necessity and peril, reflect honor on the State.

In closing the present communication to the General Assembly, I may be allowed to advise with some little feeling of pride and congratulation, to the high position which our State has acquired, and the brilliant future that is still before us. The public debt, under the policy that has been recently pursued, is rapidly diminishing. Our credit is unquestioned on either side of the Atlantic. There has never been a period in the

history of the State when industry and enterprise were more adequately and liberally rewarded.

The geographical position of Ohio, being encircled by an inland Sea and River, which bear upon their bosom a commerce sufficient to enrich an empire, is not surpassed by that of any State in the Union. She has one hundred miles of navigable rivers and eight hundred miles of canals; twenty-six hundred of completed railroad, and more than that number of miles projected and in course of construction. These natural and artificial channels of commerce form the great arteries of communication between the Atlantic States and the rapidly growing West. The soil and climate adapt us as great an variety of products as any similar area on the face of the globe. Her supply of the most useful minerals is inexhaustible, and she has all the facilities to render her one of the first manufacturing States of the Union. She contains a population, that, under a broad and enlightened policy, has increased since the commencement of this century, from forty-five thousand to at least two and a quarter millions.

Her Benevolent Institutions are monuments of the enlightened humanity of her people, and her educational system which is as free and equal as the blessings of Heaven, is ample for the solid instruction of all her youth.

The Report of the State House Commissioners, will advise you of the progress of the work under their charge during the past two years. It is to be regretted, that the means placed at the command of the Commissioners by the late Legislature, were not sufficient to have the Halls of the Senate and House of Representatives ready for occupation by the present General Assembly. The sum so far appropriated, for the erection and completion of the new State House amount to \$700,575.

Every department of the State Government is deeply interested in the speedy completion of this building. The health and convenience of the General Assembly and of the Judicial and Executive Officers, and of the people doing business with them, and the safety of the public records demand that every proper effort should be made to prepare it for occupancy within the shortest practicable period.

Under these circumstances the Commissioners felt it to be their duty, even after the appropriations were exhausted, to continue operations on the heavier portions of the work. The liabilities thus incurred, being entirely due to contractors and mechanics, will receive, I trust, your early consideration.

The affairs connected with the Penitentiary have been conducted during the past two years with unusual care and success.

From the Report of the Directors and Wardens it will be seen that the receipts of the institution from the labor of convicts and otherwise have been more than adequate to meet all its expenses.

Although the number of convictions for the last year is considerably less than that of the year previous, it is generally believed that the dimensions of the present building will not be sufficient much longer for the accommodation of all the criminals of the State.

A large proportion of those who are convicted of crime in this State, belong to that class of persons who are usually denominated "juvenile offenders," the most of whom, under suitable management and care, might be thoroughly reformed, and returned to society as useful citizens. The erection of a House of Refuge and Correction, therefore, would be much preferable in my judgment to any enlargement of the present establishment. Of the six hundred and six convicts now in the Penitentiary, one hundred and thirty-six are under the age of twenty-one years. The youthful offender should never be placed in an equality of treatment with the confirmed criminal, or compelled to resume the career of life under the stigma of infamy which attaches to a "Penitentiary convict."

I called the attention of the General Assembly on a former occasion to the disorganized condition of the militia of the State. The present Constitution prescribes a different mode for the election of general and field officers from that contained in the former, and repealed all laws and parts of laws that in any way conflicted with its provisions. The terms of the officers chosen under the former Constitution have nearly all expired, and there is no law through which the vacancies can be supplied, or the requirements of the present Constitution be carried into effect. All elections that have taken place since the adoption of the present Constitution, having been held and conducted by the provisions of the former, and in ignorance of the laws that were then repealed, etc., in the opinion of this Attorney General, illegal and void. If such be a correct interpretation of the present Constitution, there are no General or Field Officers in the State, and the whole system has been rendered almost entirely useless.

The public arms are in danger of being lost. They are scattered over the State, and many of them in the hands of persons, who, according to the opinion of the Attorney General referred to, are in no way connected with the militia of the State.

A well regulated militia system is almost essential to the preservation of an efficient military spirit among the people. Standing armies in time of peace are viewed with great distrust in all Republican Governments, and it is upon an intelligent and well organized militia that we must rest our defense to the greatest extent, even in war.

In other Governments, the military force is organized for the support of tyranny, and the mass of people are neither trained nor allowed to possess arms. Here the military force is organized for the support of popular Government, and the right of the people to bear arms is an express guarantee of the Constitution.

The protection of the liberties of the country and the maintenance of public order, are confided to the hands of the free and independent citizens of the State.

The report of the Board of Trustees furnishes a very full and satisfactory account of the past history and present condition of the Benevolent Institutions located in Columbus. The lapse of time has confirmed the wisdom of the policy which suggested their establishment. Every year has widened the circle of their usefulness.

At the same time that the humanity of the age has been gratified, they have been instruments of conferring the greatest blessings upon the unfortunate class who have been inmates of them. The institutions for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind reach a class of children for which our public schools had not provided. The success in imparting moral and intellectual training has been equal to the highest expectations of their most ardent friends.

The prosperity of these Asylums has been uninterrupted during the past two years. They have been eminently successful in fulfilling the objects of their estab-

## Columbus Journal of Commerce

"PENNSYLVANIA."

POMEROY, OHIO

TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 29, 1856

### EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Columbus, Jan. 19th, 1856.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MAIL, &c.

WE ARE BEGINNING to fear that our correspondence is becoming wearisome to our readers. The fact is, we are compelled to write in great haste, in a crowded room, amid all sorts of noise, and have no time for revision or condensation. Frequently we forget to mention some important matters intended, and devote a great deal too much space to others of less importance. Again, the mail is in such a miserable condition, it is impossible to get a copy of the Telegraph in Columbus until five or six days after it is printed. It is a positive truth that, as yet, we have not received a paper containing one line written by us in Columbus. The fact is, our mail is sent to Lancaster, from whence back to Athens, thence to Linden, thence via Marietta, Rail-road to Loveland, and thence to Columbus. God knows how many times they are overhauled between the two points. The Postmaster informs us that the Pomeroy mail is not sent to Lancaster from here at all. Where it is sent, we know not. The first letter we received from home was five days in reaching us—the second only one day and a half. The daily mail service is abandoned between this place and Lancaster. We sincerely hope that a competent agent will be sent to our region, who shall be empowered to regulate our mail, and hold all mail destined for Lancaster in suspense.

4. Allowing the council of a village containing less than 1,000 inhabitants to provide for the election of a State Commissioner—such village being considered a *minoraria* Road district, *estimatur*.

5. Increasing the fees of Corporations in certain cases.

6. Againsturious interest, making per cent the legal rate of interest.

7. A long bill amending the Corporation Law.

8. Repelling so much of the law on the acknowledgment of debts as requires the wife to be examined separate and apart from her husband.

9. Providing for the surrender by any incorporation of its corporate rights.

10. Allowing Administrators, &c., to appeal from the decisions of the Probate Court.

11. To repeal the "Crowbar Law."

12. To dispense with proof as to the making of a new bill, bond, deed, &c., unless its genuineness is denied before trial.

13. Several bills amending the Civil Code and the Incorporation Laws.

14. We have forwarded several of these bills to such of our constituents as we deemed most deeply interested in them, and should be glad if they would send us their views, and the views of their neighbors immediately. Although we propose to act independently, yet we desire to endorse as much as possible with our constituents, to the end that we may be thoroughly prepared to discuss the various bills as they come up in due hands.

15. As the grand council of the allied Generals has never before been experienced, so the Russian army is increasing so rapidly, and in France again becoming so.

The affairs in Asia are presenting no new feature.

The news from Great Britain is not of much importance.

The grand council of the allied Generals has been opened at Paris.

The conference in relation to the sound dues is indefinitely postponed, and Sweden is making active warlike preparations.

The steamship Baltic, from New York, arrived at Liverpool on the 8th.

LATEST.—The Berlin papers speak not unfavorably of the disposition of Russia to consider the Allies' proposition.

Asia.—The Russian army took up its position in Kars, Dec. 3d. The troops being quartered in town, leaving a small detachment of Cossacks to occupy the fortifications of Sobaly and Ugh.

At Yenakiéï, a village on the road to Erzourum, the Russians had collected large stores of provisions. The Russian General is apprehensive of an attack upon Kars by Selim Pacha, and has consequently concentrated all his available forces at that point.

Selim Pacha encamped in the mountains of Derg, Baynon, An attack of Erzourum by the Russians is not considered probable at present in consequence of the exhaustion of the troops and the state of the roads.

Russia.—Advice from Obock says that the allied fleet quartered in the Gulf, without finding the cannon buried there, by the Russians.

The Grand Council of War, assembled at St. Petersburg, is principally engaged in the question relating to forming the strategic points throughout the empire. The fortifications at Kiew will be finished before the close of the winter.

In confirmation of this progress in the wrong direction we refer to the course of our neighbor the Ohio Statesman. For several years, in concurrence with the party of which it is the organ, it has declared that slavery was in opposition to the slaveholder, and that, in view of the existence of slavery in this country, he trembled when he remembered that God is just and will surely punish the transgressors of his law.

Washington, Madison, &c., held similar views. But it is observed for modern lights to prove all this, and demonstrate that these men were mistaken. A few years since some writer in the Charleston (S.C.) Mercury only defended slavery in the abstract. This at first shocked the moral sense of the nation. But, in time, others repeated this proposition, and the public became accustomed to the declaration. Six years, from being a local, soon assumed to be national.

An interesting discussion is going on in these two leading political papers here.

Enclosed I send for publication the two last articles which have appeared. The first of these, entitled "Slavery a Divine Institution," is from the State Journal of yesterday.

The other, entitled "Divine Politics," is from the Statesman of this morning.

Comment is unnecessary.

Another which we enclose, from the Statesman entitled "Things Unseen," seems to require a word of explanation. The article on Gov. Ford in the Commercial, though undoubtedly correct, was entirely uncalled for, and unadvised. Ford is not thought of by U.S. Senator, and the reelection of Wade seems to be generally conceded.

Welch, Campbell, Cowin,

Sunbury, and others are talked of, but we think they stand but little chance.

There can be no doubt of the sincerity of their intentions. Unfortunately, however, they are generally inexperienced in legislative matters, and are liable to be drawn into lengthy and excited discussion by their more experienced opponents. We understand the matter will be made a matter of caucus, and our impression is that an early adjournment, and an extra session will be the result.

We think the re-election of Senator Wade is a fixed fact. It is the wish of a large majority of our representatives in Congress, of the Republican press, here and abroad, that it is clearly declared as unconstitutional as a compact declared to be constitutional by California, J. G. Adams, and all the members of Monroe's Cabinet, and signed by James Monroe, as President of the United States. After this appears, when it is boldly declared by Senator Atchison, the father of the measure, that it was introduced solely for the purpose of making Kansas slave territory, it does not surprise us to see any declaration in favor of slavery and its extension in its columns.

In the Statesman of yesterday (Sunday) morning, there is a long letter addressed to Hon. Samuel Galloway, and signed by "John Sharp, Sr.," which is worthy of a moment's passing notice, simply as evidence of the rapid growth of pro-slavery sentiment among the members of that party.

The editor indorses the letter as "most excellent."

This Mr. Sharp, thus indorsed, envisions a "sovereign compact declared to be constitutional" by California, J. G. Adams, and all the members of Monroe's Cabinet, and signed by James Monroe, as President of the United States. After this appears, when it is boldly declared by Senator Atchison, the father of the measure, that it was introduced solely for the purpose of making Kansas slave territory, it does not surprise us to see any declaration in favor of slavery and its extension in its columns.

We have a resolution now lying upon our desk, which we intend to offer at the earliest opportunity, instructing all our representatives to vote for the plurality rule in the organization of the House of Representatives in Congress. We first visited the Institution of the Deaf and Dumb, but finding that the pupils were all absent—there being no school on Saturday afternoon, we proceeded to the Blind Asylum. Here we found but few pupils—the majority being at play. However, we heard some most excellent music, and whatever audience is paid to it by the negroes of Africa, who are heathens in their natural state, and are evidently, from the clearest history, the descendants of Cush, who were doomed to servitude.

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Will Joseph make war upon the *Czar?*

No, indeed, but worse than that! He will

probably do something desperate—he will

say no, withdraw his Minister from the *Russian Capital!* How bad the *Russians* will all

feel to be sure, when the *Austrian* Minister takes his departure. The city of Peter the Great will cry out in her desolation, "now, who is me, St. Petersburg?" This excess, and no more, hath the Austrian movement;

and whatever audience is paid to it by

France, indicates that she, and not Russia,

is suing for peace. The treaty of the Allies is not yet signed, and it is unfortunate that at this moment when both Russia and America are intriguing with the *Shah*, a suspension

of the diplomatic relations of Persia with England should have taken place.

INTERESTING FROM EUROPE.

To have a moderately clear understanding

of European affairs, it occurs to us that a careful reading of the foreign papers, and of extracts from them, the application of common sense to focus, and the absence of theories and prophecies as to policy and events, and of fierce prejudices, are the sufficient requisites.

Briefly stated, the position of European affairs is about as follows:

The French Government is making a vigorous effort to bring about a peace, but the English

Government prefers another session of war,

and Russia is not inclined to yield.